

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/553,851

Filing Date: August 7, 2006

Applicant: Chia Ying Lin et al.

Group Art Unit: 2123

Confirmation No.: 6572

Examiner: Kidest Bahta

Title: Integrated Global Layout and Local Microstructure
Topology Optimization Approach for Spinal Cage Design
and Fabrication

Attorney Docket: 2115D-002504/NPB

Director of the United States Patent
and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the Notice of Allowance dated November 13, 2008, Applicants make the following observations.

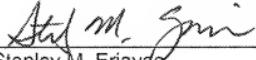
Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner allowing this application. With respect to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, however, Applicants respectfully submit that the elements that the Examiner asserts and the interpretation thereof for the basis for allowing this application too narrowly

define the invention. In fact, Applicants respectfully submit that the elements and their interpretation relied upon by the Examiner, and other elements found in the claims, could be characterized more broadly, and in different combinations and sub-combinations, and still present patentable subject matter. Further, Applicants' invention differs from the prior art of record by features other than the limitations cited by the Examiner.

If the Examiner would like to discuss this matter further, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

Dated: February 10, 2009

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SME/slq